

Programs for Youth with Disabilities

Young Solutions to an Old Issue

The Issue

From 1998 to 1999, there was a 28.5% increase in the number of students with disabilities who dropped out of school.¹

Programs and Assistance

There is an ever-expanding Department of Employment and Training (DET) role in youth services.

In Vermont, the tenants of *School To Career* Program are woven throughout the Twelve Principles recommended by Vermont's High School Task Force to guide current high school reform initiatives. Applied learning, integrated curriculum, career exploration, job shadowing, work-based learning, and learning through internship have increased opportunities for students and impacted their aspirations for the future.²

Results

There are currently 21 successful Unified Sports® programs operating in Vermont. Unified Sports breaks down the barriers that exist between students with developmental disabilities and their non-disabled peers. It allows all students access to the same extra-curricular opportunities.³ There are almost 1500 athletes and Unified Sports® partners throughout the state of Vermont.

The JOBS program (Vocational Rehabilitation in partnership with the Department of Corrections, Mental Health, and Social and Rehabilitation Services) offers vocational services and intensive case management to high-risk youth with emotional/behavioral disabilities. JOBS has achieved a 70% reduction in involvement with Corrections, 48% reduction in dependence on public benefits, and 73% reduction in homelessness.⁴

¹ Vermont Department of Education

² Vermont STW

³ Vermont Department of Education

⁴ State of Vermont, Vocational Rehabilitation, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury VT 05671-2303